



Research in Environment, Education and Development Society

**Annual Report
2018-19**

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About Us

REEDS is a registered non-profit established in 1992 to work on the principle of CDD (Community Driven Development). Its core team comprises of experienced development professionals, social scientists, planners, environmentalists and administrators.

Small NGOs and individuals at grassroots have distinctive advantages during the implementation of development projects as they understand the local social structures and have good networks in the local communities. The need for REEDS arises from the fact that most of the time, they lack the connect with professional organizations having technical expertise, project management experience, documentation skills and the ability to reach out to funding agencies for financial support. Many of them cannot collaborate with other NGOs and leverage government programs. This impacts the sustainability of the development projects and in turn, affects the livelihood of community. REEDS envisage bridging this gap and supporting such small development start-ups and leaders who are already working in their native areas on development initiatives.

Vision:

To strengthen the livelihood of rural communities through their empowerment and achieve holistic socio-economic development.

Objectives:

- ❖ To implement development projects in collaboration with local NGO partners and community leaders through technical support, project management techniques and financial arrangements
- ❖ To build the capacities of development professionals and local NGOs towards asset based community driven development model, project management and technical expertise in Natural Resource Management (NRM), agriculture and allied activities, micro-enterprises and other relevant areas
- ❖ To encourage a culture within the funding organizations to view the communities as important elements of social change through effective partnership
- ❖ To enhance the impact of government and private expenditure on the projects and programs to improve local livelihoods and economy at the community level

Launch of new Office in Maharashtra

REEDS started a new office in city of Pune from May 2018. This office will focus on the implementation of projects under the umbrella of “Madhya Bharat Vananchal Samruddi Yojana - MBVSY”, joint initiative with Yojak, to improve the livelihood of people from Central Indian Tribal Belt. MBVSY has been designed with a focus on development of sustainable livelihoods through strengthening the natural resources like land, water, forests and livestock. The first project under this initiative is being implemented at Melghat in Amravati District of Maharashtra by REEDS.

Area of operation

Sr. No.	State	Districts	Blocks
1	Maharashtra	Amravati	Chikhaldara
		Nandurbar	Navapur, Akkalkuwa
2	Andhra Pradesh	Vizianagaram	Salur, Pachipenta
		Prakasam	Giddalur, Racherla, B.Peta, Komarole, Ardhaveedu, Cumbum, Pullalacheruvu, Y.palem, Tripuranthakam
3	Telangana	Vikarabad	Vikarabad, Dharur and Yalal
		Hyderabad	Saidabad
4	Gujarat	Narmada	Dediyapada
		Dang	Ahwa

Project Implementation

Project # 1: Madhya Bharat Vananchal Samruddhi Yojana

Funding Agency	Shri Janakjasharanji Mundada Dharmarth Nyas, Jalgaon, Maharashtra
Objective	Build and strengthen People's Institutions and implement pilot projects related to agriculture
Geography	60 villages in Chikhaldara Block, District Amravati, Maharashtra
Participants	45+ members of 3 Cluster Level Committees called as "Parisar Seva Samitis"

REEDS started working in Melghat as it's first project from Pune office. Yojak has been working there from Sep-2017 through it's flagship initiative of MBVSY and was looking for a partner to take the implementation to next level. Three clusters of around 20 villages each have been created and each cluster has it's own "Parisar Seva Samiti (PSS)", a formal organization registered as charitable trust. There are around 15 members in each PSS including a 7 member management committee. President, Treasurer and Vice-President handle the bank accounts. Over the last 18 months, many capacity building programs have been conducted for the members of PSS. Now each PSS conducts a monthly meeting and works on the pilot projects given by REEDS.

Community is at the heart of all the initiatives implemented by REEDS. Usually in development projects, the community level institutions are built during the project or towards the fag end of the project. But such institutions don't feel the ownership of the assets / infrastructure built by that project, be it a water harvesting structure of some type of agri-processing unit. This affects the sustainability of that project. The local community has to be involved in the project right from the baseline study and design phase and then throughout the life cycle of that project. Only then the community will take the ownership and it can be truly called as "Community Driven Development".

1) Key Activities:

Sr. No.	Month-Year	Name of the event	Brief Description
1	Sep'17-Apr'18	Study of the natural resources in all 60 villages by PSS	Two selected representatives from each Parisar Seva Samiti (PSS) visited all the villages in their cluster and gathered information on the state of natural resources like land, water, forest and livestock. What changes have happened to these resources in last 20-25 years due to development? Focus group discussions were used for this data collection.
2	May-2018	Formal Registration of PSS	All 3 PSS were formally registered as charitable trust as per company act with Charity Commissioner of Maharashtra. This was a BIG step for the tribal farmers. They registered their own institution to focus on sustainable development and well-being of their community.
3	Jun-Sep 2018	Kharip Training and Jaldoot	Kharip training sessions were organized in the month of Jun to provide guidance to farmers on the cultivation of lead crops like Soyabin and Tur. An expert agronomist was invited to guide the farmers. Three farmers were also trained on measurement of rainfall and low cost raingauges were distributed to them. One village in each cluster measured the actual rainfall in their village. This data is extremely helpful for agriculture operations.
4	Oct-Dec 2018	Rabbi Training and Organizational Documentation	Training was organized for Rabbi season with focus on crop like Green Gram and Wheat. Then the PSS members were also trained on maintaining documentation for minutes of meetings, accounts, how to conduct monthly meetings etc. This training gave them a lot of confidence.
5	Jan 2019	Exposure visit to Nandurbar	8 members from the PSS visited Nandurbar for an exposure visit and training on latest farm implements. The two day training was taken by Krushi Vidnyan Kendra, Nandurbar. The PSS members visited farmers from Khandbara area who have improved their cultivation practices through use of

			improved seeds, vegetable farming, onion seed production and horticulture plantation. The farmers also got lot of information on new improved farm implements driven by animals or hand-driven. A custom hiring center of such farm implements will be setup next year in Melghat. The PSS members selected farm implements relevant to their crops.
6	Feb 2019	Workshop on Community Forest Rights (Forest Rights Act 2006)	Tribal communities can submit an application to local Govt. to claim rights on the forest land allocated to their village under this act. But many villages are not aware of this act and process of getting these rights. This workshop was conducted for all the PSS members. Some of the villages have got these rights but are not aware of how to use them.

2) Major outcomes:

Following are some of the key outcomes of the efforts so far:

- ✓ Formal registered People's institutions have been created in each of the 3 clusters
- ✓ All the members of PSS are willing to do experiments in the cultivation practices, this will help us conduct crop demonstrations in upcoming Kharif season in 2019
- ✓ Members also have knowledge of the latest hand operated and animal driven farm implements and have also prepared a list of implements which they want to buy for the custom hiring center to be setup next year
- ✓ Management committee members of all the 3 trusts have now learnt the basics of running an institution – conducting meetings, maintaining minutes, keeping accounting records etc.
- ✓ Good community rapport has been established for future project implementations, people are also ready to take their own responsibility in the project decisions

3) Glimpses of the key activities:



Monthly meetings of the Parisar Seva Samiti



Exposure visit to Krushi Vidnyan Kendra, Ghatkhed, Amravati



Chandrabhaga PSS members with their registration certificate



Kharip Training Session at Malkapur



Recording of rainfall data at village level



Jaldoot – Sahebrao Shendre at Village Telkhar



Exposure Visit to Nandurbar



Workshop on Forest Rights Act at Semadoh

Project # 2: Livelihood Enhancement through Promotion of Oilseeds

Funding Agency	Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research (IIOR-ICAR), Rajendra Nagar, Hyderabad
Objective	Promotion of Oil Seed Crop “Sesame” and Front Line Demonstrations
Geography	Salur and Pachipenta Mandals of Vizianagaram District
Participants	300 Gadaba Tribal Farmers

Under its CSR initiative, IIOR has taken up a program to support tribal farmers to take up agriculture and promote Oilseeds in their fields. REEDS is an implementation partner in this program. With the help of IIOR scientists REEDS has taken Gadaba Tribals in Salur and Pachipenta Mandals of Vizianagaram District and promoted Sesame (Thil) crop in 300 gadaba tribal fields. These tribal farmers are given training on oil seeds, technology, seeds, implements, inputs and marketing the product. With this small initiative each farmer has earned 10 to 12 thousand rupees from one acre land. From second year onwards the tribal farmers are growing oilseeds on their own with the technical support of REEDS.

1) Selection of the villages:

REEDS has taken up the TSP in Salur and Pachipenta Mandals of Vizianagaram district in Andhra Pradesh State. The selection of the area done according to NITI YAYOG criteria where

tribal hamlets and GPs are having more than 40% tribal population. The villages taken by REEDS for this programme are having 100% tribal population where ITDA is also existing. Gurrapu valasa, Dattivalasa, Gadivalasa, Kharasuvalasa, Karadavalasa, Antivalasa, Mosuru, Saraivalasa and Gotturu In 9 villages 309 farmers are selected based on the land availability for Oil seeds crop in Rabi season and farmers who are showing interest in taking up this programme seriously.

2) Activities Undertaken

One awareness programme is organized in Gurrapu valasa, Dattivalasa, Gadivalasa, Kharasuvalasa, Karadavalasa, Antivalasa, Mosuru, Saraivalasa and Gotturu regarding TSP and oilseeds production and the need of oilseeds promotion in the current scenario in tribal areas, and the benefits of this programme like inputs, trainings, Scientists advice, cultivation operations and practices etc. Nearly 480 farmers attended these awareness programmes.

a) Village wise trainings organized:

Village	Dates of training	Subject of training
Karadavalasa & Dattivalasa	11 th , 12 th , 13 th Sep-2018	Tillage & Soil Management, Tillage Methods, Tillage Practices, Tillage and Crop Productivity in Dry Lands, Effect of Tillage on Yield. Oil Seeds Importance and Promotion. Seeds, Treatment, Spacing. Integrated Nutrient Management, Balanced Fertilizer Use. Biofertilizers and its impact.
Kharasu Valasa & Karadavalasa	10-Sep-2018, 19-Oct-2018	Integrated Crop Management. Improved farm equipment, Small farm Mechanisation.
Mosuru and Saraivalasa	18-Oct-2018	Integrated Pest Management, Biopesticides, optimum utilization of pesticides
Dattivalasa and Anti Valasa	24-Feb-2019 and 25-Feb-2019	Agriculture & Allied activities. Post harvest technology,
Gotturu and Gurrapuvalasa	4-Mar-2019 and 5-Mar-2019	On Marketing & Processing of oil seeds and establishing community Oil expeller

b) Distribution of agriculture inputs (Seeds, Fertilizers, Pesticides)

Sr. No.	Village Name	No. Of Farmers
1	Gurrapu Valasa	75
2	Dattivalasa	36
3	Gadivalasa	25
4	Kharasuvalasa	39

5	Karadavalasa	43
6	Antivalasa	31
7	Mosuru	34
8	Gotturu	8
9	Saraivalasa	18
	Total 9 villages	309

c) Distribution of Farm Implements

309 Sickels, 99 Tarpaulins, 50 manual weeders, 60 Hand Sprayers, 2 Oil Expellers, are given to individual farmers and community.

3) Impact of the Program

Farmers got average yield of 200 kgs/acre and the rate is Rs.5000/- Since the inputs are provided under TSP the entire amount is the profit i.e Rs.10,000/- per acre on an average. Some farmers who have critical irrigation facility they got 350 kgs and Rs. 17,500/- got per acre. The Sesame they produced is used to get oil for their consumption and also for preparing laddus with the seed powder by mixing with jagery. This is a nutritious food for children and pregnant women.

The farmers of TSP will continue growing oil seeds since they know the cultivation methods. Availability of seeds, Linkages with NGO, local govt. and scientific institutions are essential for their continuation in this crop.

Awareness program in the village



Exposure Visit to IIOR at Rajendranagar, Hyderabad



Distribution of Inputs



Sowing and Harvesting



Field Day



Distribution of Implements



Oil Expeller Demo



Front Line Demonstrations:

150 farmers were selected in Ardhavedu and Giddalur mandals and given technical knowledge in growing oilseed crops and in turn these farmers are promoters of oilseeds in this region. The programme is successful with the support of IIOR Scientists.

FLD in Safflower (2018-19)

No. of Demonstrations Alloted: 10

No. of Demonstrations Conducted: 10

Sr. No.	Village/Mandal/District	Farmers Name	Yield in Local Check	Yield in Demo Plot	Change in Yield %
1.	Kanchipalle/Giddalur Mandal/Prakasam /A.P.	V.Bhaskar Reddy	250 kgs	460 kgs per acre	184
2.		V.Siva Reddy		392	157

3.		K.Rosemary		403	161
4.		K.Yohan		265	106
5.		P.Shankaraiah		425	170
6.		K.Kiran		450	180
7.		K.Gangamma		365	146
8.		SPK Peera		409	163
9.		K.C.Venkataiah		410	164
10.		K.Thirupalamma		420	168

Project # 3: Other Initiatives

Education Support Program:

Bright Students who are not having parents and are orphans are supported by Dr. Syamasunder, a retired Scientist from ICAR, Hyderabad. 25 students are taken from Surya Vidya Niketan, Giddalur. % students from each class from 6th to 10th standard and are supported financially and given additional knowledge to get livelihood after 10th standard.

Exposure Visit to Farmers:

47 Farmers are taken to Hyderabad to show different Research stations working in agriculture in Rajendranagar and participated in the exhibition and field demonstrations organized by IIOR.

Chenchugudem Tribal Development Program:

This remote Chenchu Tribal village is adopted by REEDS with the support of local donors and working for the livelihood promotion, health and education. 37 families are undertaken in this program. 250 acres of land is acquired from the govt. under primitive tribal development program. Seeds and technical support is extended by REEDS. Regular meetings for the women, children and men are organized. Bank accounts are opened for all the 37 families and linked with govt. day to day programs. Under ZBNF 30 families are grouped into 3 groups and each family is supported to grow millets under food security program. Health awareness camp is organized.



Enumaleru Parisara Seva Samithi:

This is the people's organization promoted by REEDS for the cause of Enumaleru conservation and improvement of the ground water in this region. This program is undertaken by REEDS with the support of YOJAK under MBVSY.



Capacity Building

Reeds conducted a capacity building program for partner NGOs on "Project Management". Overall 6 sessions of 2 days were held throughout the year with a gap of about 2 months between 2 sessions. Expert in training domain was hired for this work. Objective of this program was to build the capacities of these organizations to handle the structured way of working on projects – right from planning stage to implementation and impact assessment at the end of the project. Nine partner organizations from Maharashtra and Gujarat participated in this series of training. These organizations are well equipped now to handle projects when the time comes in future. Typically, these are small organizations with turnover of less than 10 Lakhs per year and do not possess the project management and documentation skills. This training series was specifically designed keeping that need in the mind. The trainings were conducted in Surat and Nandurbar.

Following modules were covered as part of the program:

- 1) Project Planning
- 2) Human Resource Development
- 3) Managerial Skills
- 4) Documentation
- 5) Team Building



Fellowship Program

REEDS launched a fellowship program this year to support the partner organizations especially when they don't have any funded projects. This year "Eklavya Gramin Adivasi Vikas Mandal" NGO from Akkalkuwa block of Nandurbar was selected for this program. This organization has been working for the upliftment of tribals from more than a decade now. Non-profits face a challenging task to retain its key human resources after a project gets over. If they don't get any project immediately, they have to let go their key people and this severely affects their performance and community rapport. Same happened with Eklavya, their project with DST (Department of Science and Technology) finished and they did not get any project. Therefore it was critical for them to sustain the community initiatives implemented through that project in 2018-19. Detail planning exercise was conducted with them to plan the activities for the year. Their internal systems for documentation, record keeping and accounting were also strengthened through training of their key people. Here are some of the main activities done throughout the year by Eklavya:

Month-Year	Activity	Description	Output / Community Benefit
May 2018	Inauguration of Merali Biodiversity Center	Eklavya established a local bio-diversity center with hundreds of local varieties of crops, forest vegetables and other local articles made of bamboo and clay	The traditional knowledge of the community has been documented and will be available for future generations.
Jul-2018	Documentation of Moha and Amchur enterprises	Moha collection and storage was done last year and Aamchur was also sold by local community groups. Eklavya provided assistance in form of working capital.	The tribal farmers got 25-30% more rate for their produce.
Sep 2018	Vanbhaji Mahotsav in Kanjala Village	Vanbhaji Mahotsav was organized for 4 th consecutive year. More than 75 women participated and exhibited about 100 recipes made from 50+ forest vegetables.	Documentation of forest vegetables and its entry into people's bio-diversity register
Oct 2018	Custard Apple collection and sell in Surat Market	Custard apple was collected from local farmers by a self help group and then sold in Surat market.	Local farmers got almost double rate for the custard apples collected from forest. The SHGs made a profit of about 1.4 Lakhs

The Debramal Gram Panchayat where Eklavya primarily works has also been selected under the Village Social Transformation Foundation (VSTF), a program launched by Govt. of Maharashtra to transform 1000 villages in Maharashtra. A local fellow has been placed in the village to focus on

convergence of schemes run by various Govt. departments and facilitate the holistic development of the village in education, health, livelihood and skill development sectors.



Recognition of Eklavya's Efforts by Govt. of Maharashtra:

The president of Eklavya, Shri. Ramsing Valvi, was also awarded for community efforts for bio-diversity conservation by bio-diversity board of Govt. of Maharashtra in Feb-2019. The award was given by Hon. Forest Minister of State – Shri. Sudhir Mungantiwar. He also received prestigious Zee Ananya Gaurav Sanman this year.

Consulting Services

Another core area of REEDS's operations is providing consulting services to non-profit organizations in proposal development, project report writing, designing baseline surveys and project planning and documentation of case studies, success stories etc. Some of the key assignments completed this year are as follows:

Sr. No.	Name of Organization	Service Provided
1	Krushi Vidnyan Kendra, Nandurbar	Design and Documentation of leaflets for Oilseeds and Pulses Program, Backyard Poultry Program and NICRA (National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture)
2	Dr. Hedgewar Seva Samiti, Nandurbar	Proposal development for Rajiv Gandhi Science and Technology Commission (RGSTC), Concept Notes for NABARD, Project Completion Report for Wadi Project – NABARD
3	Mansi Vikas Sansthan, Bharuch, Gujarat	Analysis Report of Baseline Survey for project sponsored by GNFC CSR, Gujarat
4	Dr. Ambedkar Vanvasi Kalyan Trust, Surat, Gujarat	Proposal Development for Skill Development Center for ONGC CSR, Project Completion report for project sponsored by LIC-HFL

Way Ahead

REEDS has just started taking baby steps from Pune Office and looking to expand it's operations next year. Pilot of some agriculture related projects will be done in Melghat under MBVSY program. REEDS will continue working with it's partner organizations to strengthen community level institutions through capacity building and facilitation for technical support, project management and documentation. REEDS has developed a shelf of ready DPRs (Detailed Project Reports). It will continue it's efforts to raise funds through corporates and Govt. agencies.